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NEWS RELEASE

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KANSAS CITY MAN CHARGED IN ATTEMPTED KILLING OF FEDERAL WITNESS

KANSAS CITY, KAN. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced today that **Mark Manuel McGee**, 32, Kansas City, Mo., was charged by complaint Oct. 24, 2004 with **aiding and abetting in an attempt to kill a witness in a federal criminal case.**

McGee, known by the street name “Smooth,” made his initial appearance Monday in U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Kan. A complaint filed with the court alleges that McGee and another man were involved in the April 29, 2004 shooting of a federal witness in Lawrence, Kan.

The witness cooperated with the Douglas County Drug Enforcement Unit in an investigation that led to a grand jury issuing a four-count indictment April 1, 2004 against Andre Lamar Ivory on charges of distribution of crack cocaine. On April 29, 2004, the witness was shot while her car was sitting at a stop sign near 7th Street and Locust in Lawrence. Her car was struck head on by another car and shots were fired from the other car, striking Atkins in both legs.

In the complaint, a detective with the Lawrence Police Department recounts details of a series of recorded conversations prior to the shooting in which Ivory and his associates talked about identifying the person responsible for Ivory being arrested. In one conversation, McGee told Ivory that he would be Ivory’s “fairy godmother” and would help him get out of trouble. In other conversations, associates of Ivory referred to the fact “Smooth” was out of jail and said the federal witness would be “next.” The complaint also states an informant told investigators that after McGee was released from the jail on April 3, 2003, McGee “took control of the planning and coordination of the shooting” of Atkins.

If convicted, McGee faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The case was

(More)

investigated by the Lawrence, Kan. Police Department, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, the Douglas County Drug Enforcement Unit, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Marshals Service. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The charges filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.

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